

SECRET

20 August 1963

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Enemy Forces in Guantanamo Area

1. The entire vicinity of the U. S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, like the rest of Cuba, is under regular and frequent observation by aerial photographic reconnaissance. The only change in recent months has been the appearance of apparent Cuban Army G-2 personnel early this summer replacing the militiamen who had heretofore served as sentries on the Cuban side of the Base perimeter.
2. The only Soviet installations within 50 miles of the base are two surface-to-air (SAM) missile sites, a SAM assembly area, and two coastal cruise missile storage areas. Soviet personnel at these installations, the nearest of which is the MALDONADO SAM site 25 nautical miles away, do not total more than 500 in all, none of them representing combat formations. The nearest major Soviet bases are BANES and HOLGUIN.
3. We estimate that by crash mobilization of militiamen the Cubans could mass a total of 5,000 to 6,000 troops within 50 kilometers of the Guantanamo Base. At present they have less than half that number in readiness.
4. The only public line on Guantanamo we have noted in Cuban propaganda, external or internal, is that eventually Guantanamo must return to Cuba, and that this will be achieved through proceedings of competent international organizations.
5. As for the Cuban rumor mills, far from stating that the US is paying for Soviet cooperation, they persist in alleging that the Soviet Union, as the price for an East-West detente, has agreed to take full charge in Cuba preparatory to turning the country over, without consulting Castro, to the UN and the OAS.

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